

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-9, 11-25 and 27-31. Claims 11, 13, 27 and 29 have been canceled. Claims 1, 12, 14, 16, 28 and 31 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy of a telephone interview granted to Applicant's representative, Daniel Kligler (Reg. No. 41,120) on March 11, 2005. At the interview, it was agreed that if the independent claims in this application were amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 13, the claims would then be in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.

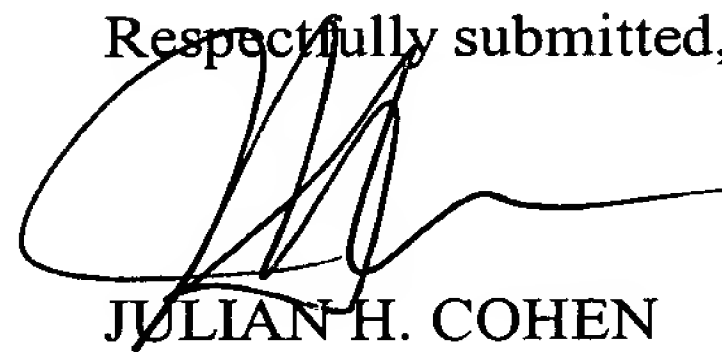
Claims 1-9, 11-25 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wong (U.S. Patent 6,700,891) in view of Heddaya et al. (U.S. Patent 6,622,157) and VanDervort (U.S. Patent 5,812,528), and with respect to some of the claims, further in view of Coile et al. (U.S. Patent 6,006,268), McKee et al. (U.S. Patent 5,477,531) or Tams et al. (U.S. Patent 6,327,620). Applicant disagrees with these grounds of rejection and reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of the original claims in a continuation of this application.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite issuance of a patent on this application, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16 and 31 as agreed in the interview. Amended claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of claims 11 and 13, which have accordingly been canceled. Amended claim 16 incorporates the comparable limitations of claims 27 and 29, now canceled, as well, and claim 31 has been similarly amended. Dependent claims 12, 14 and 28 have been amended for proper dependence from independent claims 1 and 16. Claims 1-9, 12, 14-25, 28, 30 and 31 are thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully

responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, a prompt notice of allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian H. Cohen', is written over the typed name.

JULIAN H. COHEN

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